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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,287	02/28/2002	Wilhelm Schott	6039-000301	3113

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/087,287

Applicant(s)

SCHOTT ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 (line 1) recites “especially a torque limiting coupling”. The term “especially” renders the claim indefinite as it is unclear as to what is positively claimed as the invention.

Claim 1 (line 5) recites “has a circumferential inner contour”. It should recite --having a circumferential inner contour--.

Claim 1 (line 18) recites “connection means or connecting”. It should recite --connection means for connecting--.

Claim 1 (line 19) recites “connection elements”. It should recite --said connection element--.

Claim 2 (line 2) recites “enables a limited angular movement”. It should recite --enable a limited angular movement--.

Claim 2 (line 2) recites “wherein the connection means enables a limited angular movement, axial movement and/or radial movement”. It is unclear as to whether the connection means enables angular, axial and radial movement, or whether the connection means enables angular or axial or radial movement.

Claim 5 (line 3) recites “projections form grooves”. It should recite --projections forming grooves--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Philbrick (USPN 2,510,414).

As to claim 1, Philbrick discloses a coupling having:

a longitudinal axis;

a tubular coupling housing **12** having a connecting bore portion starting from a first axial end, the connecting bore portion in a cross-sectional plane crossing the longitudinal axis at a right angle, having a circumferential inner contour which is non-circular, and the coupling housing having an insertion bore portion;

an inner coupling member **10** accommodated in the insertion bore portion of the coupling housing, the inner coupling member coaxially surrounded by the coupling housing;

torque transmitting elements **16** between the inner coupling member and the coupling housing causing a rotational torque transmission between the coupling housing and the inner coupling member;

a connecting element **11** having a connecting portion, the connecting portion accommodated in the connecting bore portion of the coupling housing, the connecting portion having an outer contour, in cross section, which follows the inner contour of the

Art Unit: 3679

coupling housing at a radial distance, such that a clearance exists between the inner and outer contours; and

connection means **13,14,16,22** for connecting the coupling housing to the connecting element wherein the coupling housing and the connecting element are movably held relative to each other in a limited way (Figures 3 and 6).

As to claim 2, Philbrick discloses a coupling wherein connection means **13,14,16,22** enable a limited angular, axial and radial movement (Figure 6).

As to claim 5, Philbrick discloses a coupling wherein a coupling housing **12** over its total axial length has rib-like projections **9** extending parallel to a longitudinal axis, the rib-like projections forming grooves in the inner contour of the coupling housing (Figure 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 3, Philbrick fails to disclose a coupling wherein connection means are arranged in an area of a connecting bore portion of a coupling housing and a connection portion of a connecting element and comprise an opening in the coupling housing and per the opening comprise a pin or a screw insertable into an insertion bore of the connecting element.

Art Unit: 3679

It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a coupling as disclosed by Philbrick to have the above mentioned elements as there is no motivation for making such modifications.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to be added to the applicant's list for they further show the state of the art with respect to coupling assemblies:

Sutaruk et al. (USPN 3,408,830) is cited for pertaining to couplings having connection means enabling limited angular movement between a coupling housing and a coupling element.

Woodward (GB 284,106) is cited for pertaining to couplings having connection means comprising an opening in a coupling housing and per the opening a screw insertable into an insertion bore of a connecting element.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (703)308-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703)308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9326 for regular communications and (703)872-9327 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1114.

MPF
May 20, 2003



Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3679